



Setting up a safe camp in Denali means making a "golden triangle." Tents must be pitched at least a hundred yards from cooking areas, and another hundred yards from Bear Resistant Food Containers (BRFCs), provided free with your backcountry permit. Learn more on Page 10.

NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

## Two celebrations mark two park centennials

**T**his year, the National Park Service celebrates the 100th anniversary of its establishment by Congress in 1916. Next year in 2017, Denali National Park and Preserve achieves its own centennial. In 1917, Mount McKinley National Park, as it was known at that time, was the first national park founded following the creation of the new agency.



DENA 21956, DENALI NPP MUSEUM COLLECTION

Entering the park in June 1939.

The park recognizes both milestones as opportunities to engage new generations in its timeless mission to protect and interpret tangible treasures, such as wildlife, wildlands, and waterways, as well as intangibles, such as its cultural accomplishments, lessons, and stories.

### Looking Good in Green

As one of three pilot parks selected for a Subaru Zero Landfill Initiative, Denali is working with partners and surrounding communities to put the park on a path toward 100 percent landfill diversion. Two hybrid buses and 12 propane buses also are joining its shuttle and transit fleet to reduce sound and carbon emissions.

### Human Hundred

Grab your gear. Mark your map. Start your app, if that's your thing. The park is challenging its visitors and staff to log 100 miles of human-powered travel during 2016 and 2017 to commemorate its centennial birthdays. Walk, bike, run, ski or snowshoe. Watch for ranger-led events to help you reach your Human Hundred.

### First-Timer Friendly

Denali is working to make it easier for Alaskans with limited hiking or camping experience to visit and explore. The park is partnering with other public land agencies and outdoor gear companies to provide families with the encouragement and resources they need to make their first experiences here easier and more enjoyable.

### Stay Connected

Follow Denali's growing array of social media feeds listed on Page 16 for details about upcoming events and initiatives. Join the conversation at [FindYourPark.com](http://FindYourPark.com)



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

Entering the park today.  
Please consult Page 3 for wildlife safety advisories and regulations.

### Welcome to YOUR park

You have arrived just in time to join us in celebrating a very special occasion, the centennial of the National Park Service.

One hundred years ago the National Park Service was created to care for and protect the nation's natural and cultural treasures, to preserve its stories, and to create a common ground for all its citizenry to enjoy now and far into the future.

In Denali, we are privileged to share the stories of the human connection to a vast and wild landscape. Subsistence hunting, trapping and gathering occur today just as they did hundreds of years ago.

Denali also serves as a barometer for change. As permafrost thaws, glaciers shrink, and tree lines rise, we feel humbled to care for this living laboratory that is so critical to understanding the effects of climate change on our global community.

More than anything else, we hope you celebrate the true ideal of national parks here in Denali, a place that has been set aside to connect people to America's past, a place that protects present wildlife and amazing landscapes for your enjoyment and that of future generations, and a place that celebrates the individual's opportunity to experience inspiration, reflection, awe, and wonder. It's a big idea, but we believe Denali is big enough for all visitors to find something special in their park.



Enjoy your visit.

**Don Striker**  
Superintendent

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### Page 5 Great One

Denali, Tenada, Bulshaia Gora, Densmore Peak, Mount McKinley ... all of these and more are names attributed to the tallest mountain in North America.

Park Historian Erik K. Johnson describes key characters and events in a naming debate that spans more than 100 years.

### Page 12 Ranger Me

Why should kids get to have all the fun with Discovery Packs and Junior Ranger activities? (See Page 11.)

Visitors of all ages may tackle two pages of activities to earn distinction as a "Not-So Junior Ranger." Challenges include a crossword, scavenger hunt, "I Spy" and a short essay or drawing.





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### Denali National Park and Preserve

P.O. Box 9  
Denali Park, AK 99755

### E-mail

DENA\_Info@nps.gov

### Website

www.nps.gov/dena

### Phone

907 683-2294

### Bus and campsite reservations

800 622-7275 Nationwide  
907 272-7275 International  
www.reservedenali.com

### Emergency

Dial 911

## Entrance Fees

Seven-Day Pass:

Individual (age 16 and older), \$10  
Denali NPP Annual Pass: \$40  
America the Beautiful Interagency Passes:  
Annual, \$80  
Senior, \$10  
Access, Free  
Annual Military Pass, Free

**Eighty percent** of fee dollars collected in the park return to Denali to pay for projects that have an impact on visitor experience, such as campground improvements, trail erosion mitigation, and the Artist-in-Residence program.

## Park Partners

As a nonprofit education partner, **Alaska Geographic** connects people to Alaska's magnificent wildlands through experiential education, award-winning books and maps, and by directly supporting the state's parks, forests, and refuges. Over the past 50 years, Alaska Geographic has provided more than \$20 million to fund educational and interpretive programs throughout Alaska's public lands. It also supports education programs, scientific research, and science-informed management decisions through the Murie Science and Learning Center.

### Alaska Geographic Association

907 683-1272  
www.alaskageographic.org



The **Denali Education Center** is a local non-profit organization that partners with the NPS to offer summer programs for local youth, including Denali Discovery Camp and Denali Backcountry Adventures. Other education programs include Denali Community Series and W.I.L.D. About Denali, both of which emphasize the unique natural history and wildlife of the Denali bio-region.

### Denali Education Center

907 683-2597  
www.denali.org



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

At the **Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC)**, visitors can learn about park science in an exhibit area, allow kids to explore an activity corner, enjoy comfortable chairs around a warm fireplace on cold and wet days, and get current park information at the front desk. In summer, the MSLC offers public presentations, half-day classes, multi-day field courses, teacher trainings, and youth camps.

Hours at the MSLC are 9 am to 4:30 pm daily.

For current courses and programs, call 907 683-6432 or visit **www.nps.gov/rhc/murie**

To walk there, simply follow white, painted dinosaur tracks on pathways outside the Denali Visitor Center.



### Institute-Style Field Courses

Immerse yourself in a hands-on multi-day learning vacation. As part of a national effort to increase scientific literacy by showcasing research from living laboratories, the MSLC hosts courses on topics ranging from archeological surveys to glacier and climate studies. Offerings are posted at <http://akgeo.org/fieldcourses/>

### Kids' Camps

Kids get to explore Denali during youth camps and expeditions each summer. These are fabulous opportunities for kids and young adults to explore park science through interactive activities, learn camping and backcountry travel skills, and have fun with their peers in a wild but safe environment. More at [www.nps.gov/dena/learn/education/classrooms/kids-camps.htm](http://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/education/classrooms/kids-camps.htm)



## Services

### Accessibility

Most rest rooms are wheelchair accessible. Some trails, and tour and shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible. Please advise staff of needs when making a reservation. Park films are open-captioned. Find more information at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliAccess>

### Alaska Railroad

You can travel to Denali by rail from Fairbanks, Anchorage, or Talkeetna. Call 800 544-0552, or 907 683-2233 in Denali, or 907 265-2683 in Anchorage.

### Banks

The closest bank is in Healy. ATM service is provided at the Wilderness Access Center, and several businesses one mile (1.6 km) north of the park.

### Child Care

Located on Sulfide Drive in Healy, the Denali Preschool and Learning Center is the only licensed day care in the Denali Borough. Drop-in childcare is offered year-round, 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, for ages 1 month to 12 years. Documentation of current immunizations is required, or sign an exemption. Contact 907 683-7789.

### Connectivity

Cell phones work in the park entrance area. There are no public phones west of Park Headquarters. Report emergencies to rangers, bus drivers, or campground hosts.

### Dog Boarding

Available seven miles south of the park entrance. By day, or overnight. 907 683-2580, [canineresort@tonglenlake.com](mailto:canineresort@tonglenlake.com)

### Gas and Propane

Available at gas stations one mile north of the park entrance, 11 miles north in Healy, and 29 miles south in Cantwell.

### Glacier Landings

Visitors can opt to land on park glaciers aboard a ski-equipped airplane with:

**Fly Denali**, Healy, AK

866 770-2359  
[www.flydenali.com](http://www.flydenali.com)

**K2 Aviation**,

Talkeetna, AK  
800 764-2291

[www.flyk2.com](http://www.flyk2.com)

**Sheldon Air Service**,

Talkeetna, AK  
800 478-2321

[www.sheldonairservice.com](http://www.sheldonairservice.com)

**Talkeetna Air Taxi**,

Talkeetna, AK  
800 533-2219  
[www.talkeetnaair.com](http://www.talkeetnaair.com)

### Grocery, Laundry, and Showers

At the Riley Creek Mercantile, located near the entrance of the park, adjacent to the Riley Creek Campground.

### Lost and Found

Call 907 683-9275 or visit the baggage check located across from the train depot, open daily 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

### Medical

The closest physicians and hospitals are in Fairbanks.

**Canyon Clinic**, urgent care facility, about a mile north of the park entrance at Mile 238.8. Open 9 am to 6 pm daily, available on call 24 hours, 907 683-4433.

**Interior Community Health Center**, located in the Tri-Valley Community Center, 13 miles north of the park on Healy Spur Road. Clinic hours are 8 am to 5:30 pm weekdays. A physician's assistant is on call at 907 683-2211.

**Talkeetna, Sunshine Community Health Center**, Mile 4 of the Talkeetna Spur Road. Open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday, with 24-hour on-call services, 907 733-2273.

### Post Office

Located near the park entrance and Riley Creek Campground.

### Recycling Areas

Located at the Riley Creek Mercantile for aluminum, plastic, and batteries. Visitor centers, campgrounds, and rest stops have aluminum can receptacles.

### Religious Services

Please check at the Denali Visitor Center for times and locations of religious services.

### Road Lottery

This year's Road Lottery is Fri Sep 16 to Tue Sep 20 (with Military Appreciation Day set for Sat Sep 17). For each day of the lottery, 400 names are drawn and those winners may drive the length of the Park Road in their personal vehicles. Names of those selected for permits are posted by June 15. Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliLottery>

### Sewage Dump Station

Located adjacent to the Riley Creek Mercantile. Fees may apply. Inquire at the Riley Creek Mercantile. Facility may be closed early or late in season due to frozen ground or chance of freezing.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

**Bookstores** Alaska Geographic operates three bookstores in the park, 9 am to 7 pm, including the main Denali Visitor Center campus, the Toklat Rest Area, and the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station. A portion of every sale helps fund park educational and interpretive programs. More at [www.alaskageographic.org/store](http://www.alaskageographic.org/store)

## Food



### Don't Go Hungry or Thirsty

There is no food and limited water available beyond the park entrance area. Please be sure to pack well for your travels.

### Morino Grill

The only restaurant in the park, adjacent to the Denali Visitor Center, also features a coffee bar and box lunches to go. Open 8 am to 6 pm daily with reduced hours likely in May and September.

### Wilderness Access Center

A coffee cart and snacks are available 5 am to 7 pm daily.

### Riley Creek Mercantile

Bottled drinks, sandwiches, and a variety of packaged snacks and convenience groceries are available in the Riley Creek Campground. Open 7 am to 11 pm daily with reduced hours likely in May and September.



# You Can Help Keep Wildlife Healthy and Wild

The bears of Denali are wild creatures behaving naturally. These solitary animals can be very dangerous. Denali is home to both black bears and grizzly bears. Black bears inhabit the forested areas of the park, while grizzly bears mainly live on the open tundra. Almost all bears along the Park Road are grizzlies. For your own protection, and to keep bears healthy and wild, please carefully read and abide by these rules. Each of us has an obligation to respect bears and their habitat. These rules are strictly enforced in Denali. Failure to observe them may result in citations or fines.

**BE ALERT**  
Bears are active both day and night and can be anywhere. Watch for tracks and scat.

**DON'T SURPRISE**  
Bears may perceive you as a threat if you startle them. Never get between a sow and her cub. Bears are protective of their cubs.

**MAKE NOISE**  
Warn bears of your presence by making noise—sing, shout, talk. Be especially careful in dense brush where visibility is low, when walking into the wind, and along rivers where bears may not hear you over the noise of the water.

**DO NOT RUN**  
Running may elicit a chase response. Bears can run faster than 30 mph (50 km/hr). You cannot outrun them. If the bear is unaware of you, detour quickly and quietly away. Give the bear plenty of room, allowing it to continue its activities undisturbed.

**BACK AWAY SLOWLY IF THE BEAR IS AWARE OF YOU**  
Speak in a calm, low-pitched voice while waving your arms slowly above your head. Bears that stand up on their hind legs are not threatening you, but merely trying to identify you. Should a bear approach or charge you, do not run. Do not drop your pack. Bears sometimes charge to within a few feet of a person before stopping or veering off. Dropping a pack may pique a bear’s curiosity, causing it to investigate. Stand still until the bear moves away, then slowly back off.

**NEVER APPROACH**  
Bears should live as free from human interference as possible. Give them space. Maintain a minimum distance of 300 yards (275 meters). Allowing a bear to approach for photographs is prohibited. If a bear changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

**IF A GRIZZLY MAKES CONTACT WITH YOU, PLAY DEAD**  
Curl up into a ball with your knees tucked into your stomach and your hands laced around the back of your neck. Leave your pack on to protect your back. If the attack is prolonged, fight back vigorously. If a black bear makes contact with you, fight back immediately.



Black bear. PHOTO COURTESY DOUG BROWN


**BEAR SPRAY**  
When used properly, bear spray can be an effective deterrent for aggressive behavior by bears. If you decide to carry it, be aware that wind, spray distance, rain, and product shelf life all influence its effectiveness. Learn how to use it safely. Ask a park ranger if you have questions. When traveling on a bus, tell the driver you have bear spray so it can be secured appropriately.

Please report all bear incidents and encounters to a ranger. Park rangers and biologists need this information to document bear behavior for research and management purposes.



Be wary of substitutes. Insect repellents, mace, and pepper spray designed for protection from other people do not have the same ingredients or effectiveness as bear spray.


## Free filtered water


 Water sources are limited beyond the park entrance area. You can save money and reduce use of disposable plastic drink containers by refilling your bottle with free, fresh water from filtered dispensers at six park locations (from east to west): Riley Creek Mercantile, Wilderness Access Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Morino Grill, Denali Visitor Center, and Eielson Visitor Center.





KEEP WILDLIFE WILD  
**Never feed or approach wildlife**


## Park Regulations and Safety Advisories


 **Do not feed any wild animals, including birds.** It is unhealthy for them, and encourages aggressive behavior that may require management action. All pet food, trash, coolers, and cooking tools must be kept secure unless in immediate use. We all have a shared responsibility to keep wildlife healthy and wild.


 **Do not approach wildlife.** You must stay at least 25 yards (23 m) away from moose, sheep, wolves, and other animals. A distance of at least 300 yards (275 m) is required from bears. Regardless of distance, if any wild animal changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.


 Moose are faster and much less docile than they appear. A cow moose with calves can be especially unpredictable and dangerous. **If a moose charges you, run away.** Dodge quickly behind large trees, cars, or structures. If you are chased while caught out in the open, zigzag or change direction often.


 As you explore park trails and wilderness areas, be bear aware. You are safer hiking in groups. In areas of low visibility, make noise to avoid surprise encounters. **Do not run from a bear.** If you are going to spend significant time in the outdoors in Alaska, carry bear spray, and know how to use and dispose of it safely.


 Pets may be walked along the Park Road, in parking lots, on campground roads, along the Bike Path from the park entrance to the visitor center campus, and the Roadside Trail between the visitor center campus and Park Headquarters. Pets must be leashed with a lead that is six feet or shorter. Do not leave a tethered pet unattended. Owners must collect and dispose of pet feces.

 In developed areas, stay on established trails and paths. If you are hiking with a group in areas where there are no established trails, spread out to reduce your impact on the landscape.

 **Explore your park. Protect your park.** It is illegal to disturb and collect natural specimens, cultural and historic objects, or archeological artifacts. Leave items where you find them. Federal regulations require that such discoveries remain in context. To help researchers and contribute to science, snap photos and carefully note the location, preferably with GPS reference coordinates.

 Cyclists may ride on park roads, parking areas, campground loops, and the designated Bike Trail between the Nenana River and the Denali Visitor Center.

 **Share the road.** Pass no closer than three feet (1.0 m) to bicycles and pedestrians, especially if your vehicle has large side mirrors. On gravel roads, travel at “no dust” speeds that do not kick up a plume that will wash over cyclists and pedestrians. If you see wildlife while driving, do not stop or impede the safe and free flow of traffic along any portion of the road. Instead, park in an established pullout, and watch from a safe distance.

 It is the responsibility of visitors to understand all applicable firearms laws before entering the park. **Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the park.** Those places are marked with signs at all public entrances. The park concessioner does not allow firearms on tour buses. Passengers may carry a firearm on shuttle buses but it must be unloaded and stored in a locked container. Except as part of authorized hunting activities, discharging weapons is strictly prohibited throughout the park. Learn more online at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliFirearms>


<b>25 yards</b> 23 m	<b>300 yards</b> 275 m
<b>Moose, caribou, Dall sheep, wolf, occupied raptor nest, or occupied den site</b>	<b>Bear</b>


## Watch Wildlife Safely

Any distance that alters the behavior of a wild animal is too close. Maintain minimum distances at all times. Resist the temptation to approach or intercept an animal’s path.

Use binoculars or a telephoto lens to observe an animal’s natural behavior. Do not engage in photography if an animal moves closer than the minimum distance allowed. Remind others of their ethical responsibility when photographing animals. Please do not follow an animal at close distance with a vehicle. Motorists must stop and allow an animal to cross the road safely.

Avoid stressing wildlife. Animals living here are engaged in a daily struggle to find food, shelter, and water necessary for survival. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times, such as when they are nesting, mating, or raising young.

 **Quiet please. If you see wildlife from a tour or shuttle bus, limit noise and distractions. Keep your head, hands, and elbows entirely inside the vehicle.**

 **To report a violation or crime, call the tip line at 800 478-2724**  
**For emergencies, dial 911**





**McKinley Station, circa 1939.** Photo Courtesy of Alaska State Library, Skinner Foundation Photograph Collection, P44-05-040A



Photo Courtesy of Alaska State Library, Skinner Foundation Photograph Collection, P44-05-074

# Park ranger roles still adapting to changing times

**by David Olson**  
 Visitor and Resource Protection Ranger

Rangering has changed over the last century, but some things still remain the same.

Visitor and Resource Protection Rangers are federal police officers who protect national parklands and visitors during their visit. Without these rangers many of the things you have come to enjoy about national parks would not exist. As visitation has grown over the last century, rangers have had to learn new skills to respond to visitor needs and new threats to the resource. For example, poaching was a major issue that rangers worked hard to get under control in the early years of the National Park System. Poaching still exists today, but it’s not as frequent as it used to be.

Current rangers spend more time responding to search and rescue, medical emergencies and law enforcement situations. Many people are surprised to learn that there is crime in our national parks, but unfortunately, people do not leave their problems at home when they go on vacation.

In the early days of Mount McKinley National Park, rangers patrolled by dogsled, skis and on foot. Today the same methods are used, but rangers have added patrol vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, boats and airplanes to patrol operations. These methods of travel allow rangers to be more proactive in patrols and respond to incidents efficiently.

While on patrol, rangers come across a variety of violations. The ranger staff at Denali would like to remind visitors of a few things to help make your trip smoother.

- Please read and follow rules and advisories on park signs and in the Alpenglow.
- Be prepared if you go hiking and backpacking.
- If you are feeling sick, request assistance. Do not keep riding the bus farther into the park.
- Store all food, coolers and grills inside your vehicle or in a bear resistant food locker.
- Only take pictures. There is no collecting of park resources in wilderness such as rocks, flowers, and artifacts.
- Dispose of garbage in appropriate receptacles.
- Pets are never allowed off leash. Make sure you walk your pet in an approved area.
- If you are visiting the park with a guide company, make sure it has obtained the appropriate permits.

Rangers are out in the campgrounds, driving roads and hiking the trails every day. Please feel free to ask questions about the park and our profession. We are more than happy to share our knowledge with you.



Courtesy of National Archives, 79G-11F-54  
**First Superintendent Harry Karstens.**



DENA 32219, Denali NPP Museum Collection  
**Entrepreneur Maurice Morino on the porch of his second roadhouse.**



Photo Courtesy of Alaska State Library, Skinner Foundation Photograph Collection, P44-05-117  
**Park ranger, circa 1939.**



DENA 21956, Denali NPP Museum Collection  
**McKinley Park Hotel.**



DENA 22655, Denali NPP Museum Collection  
**Ranger staff, 1940s.**



DENA 23558, Denali NPP Museum Collection  
**April 1950.**

# Park organizes two years of celebrations for two centennials

**by Lynn McAloon**  
 Park Planner, Centennial Organizer

As Denali’s Centennial Organizer, I invite you to help us commemorate historic events and join two years of celebration. This year and next, Denali invites you to “Find Your Park.”

I found mine more than 20 years ago. I am one of few people lucky enough to live here all year, experiencing all seasons. Every day the sweeping landscapes change before my eyes. The alpenglow paints the curves and edges of glacially carved mountains. The first buds of spring tentatively poke their green shoots out of the snow. Baby animals are born: a spring bear cub emerges from its winter den to frolic with its family; a moose calf takes its first tenuous steps. Wildflowers and other plants wake up to summer, riotous with purpose before our short summer ends in a tapestry of incredible patterns and colors. The skies fill with returning feathered visitors, and one hears again the sweet call of the Swainson’s thrush, the honk of geese, and the croaky cries of Sandhill cranes all lifting in flight. Some birds stay and raise young here and some are simply visiting on their way to breeding grounds in distant deltas and wetlands. On tundra ponds, swans practice cursive with their beautifully curved necks, loons dive over and over, making clownish calls to each other. Whether your visit is for a few hours or, like mine, for many years, this park offers open space, solitude, adventure, peace, and beauty to all who make the long journey to experience it.

Ninety-nine years ago, park founders had amazing foresight to see the need to create a refuge to protect Dall sheep and other wildlife populations at a time when it was a nearly trackless wilderness. Alaska wouldn’t become a state for another 40 years.

Now, Denali is a place for visitors to enjoy as well as a place of renowned research and experiential learning. Most importantly, though, Denali remains a place of wilderness, a place to hear the call of the chickadee, thrill at an eagle soaring, or behold the radiance of alpenglow on the shoulders of majestic peaks.

Our centennial marks a renewal of the vow that was made to protect this place. It also prompts a celebration for the inspiration we find in this park—and for the magic and adventure that await future visitors, who will one day join you and me in experiencing the legacy of Denali’s timeless beauty.

Please stay in touch with the park website and social media outlets for details about upcoming events and initiatives. Denali is celebrating, and we would love for you to join us.

## Share Your Story

We’ve made it easy for you to tell others about the things you’ve seen and experienced during your visit to Denali. If you have a minute to spare, and a telephone, you can record a story that may appear on the park website with links from popular social media feeds.

To record “Your Denali Story,” please call **907 683-6400**

Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliStory>







Passengers of the Mt. McKinley Tourist and Transportation Company view the mountain, circa 1939.

Photo Courtesy of Alaska State Library, Skinner Foundation Photograph Collection, P44-05-016A

# Alaska's 'Great One' Has Returned Officially

by Erik K. Johnson  
Park Historian

On the eve of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, the name of the highest peak in North America changed from “Mount McKinley” to “Denali.” The timing of the change not only helps mark the agency’s centennial, it shines a light on the long human history of the park, and illuminates a naming debate that has lasted more than 100 years.

The controversy started before the establishment of the park and has continued into the present. Charles Sheldon and Belmore Browne, who were the strongest advocates for the formation of the park, probably would have been pleased to hear about the 2015 decision by the Secretary of the Interior to restore the name “Denali” to North America’s highest peak.

On January 13th, 1916, hunter-naturalist Charles Sheldon made an appeal to Thomas Riggs of the Alaska Engineering Commission regarding the naming of the park and its crown jewel:

“I hope that in the bill you will call it ‘Mt Denali National Park’ so that the true old Indian name of Mt McKinley (meaning ‘the Great One’) will thus be preserved.”



Charles Sheldon  
DENA 1966,  
Denali NPP Museum Collection

On the same day that Sheldon sent his letter, mountaineer Belmore Browne also wrote to Riggs about the naming of the park and was unequivocal in his language, referring to the proposed park as “Denali National Park.”

Sheldon, Browne, and Riggs were part of a team that was drafting legislation to establish a national park protecting wildlife. Sheldon and Browne, who had both spent significant time within the proposed park boundaries, were deeply alarmed by the decimation of the region’s game due to market hunting and the impending arrival of the railroad. They were also concerned about preserving for the mountain a Native name which increasingly was being dismissed or completely ignored by American mapmakers, and in other publications.

Riggs disagreed with Sheldon and Browne. In his reply to Browne, Riggs declared:

“I don’t like the name of Denali. It is not descriptive. Everybody in the United States knows of Mt. McKinley and the various efforts made to climb it. In consequence, both Mr. Yard and I think that the name McKinley should stick.”

While Sheldon and Browne did not agree with Riggs’s point-of-view, their ultimate objective was to pass a bill quickly, so in a steadfast effort to keep things moving, they capitulated to Riggs on the name.

“Mount McKinley National Park” officially prevailed after its legislation was signed into law on February 26, 1917.

Despite the official decision to use “Mount McKinley” as the name of the peak and the national park, the debate did not die. It proved difficult to supplant words and meanings that endured for generations among Athabaskan groups living in close proximity to the mountain. Athabaskan words for the mountain translate to “the tall one” or “mountain-big” (perhaps Riggs did not know the Native words were descriptive). “McKinley” was incompatible with the Athabaskan worldview because they rarely name places after people.

In 1975, the name controversy reemerged when the State of Alaska petitioned the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (USBGN) to change the name of the mountain to Denali officially. Unfortunately for Alaskans, the Ohio congressional delegation (representing former-President McKinley’s home state) blocked their efforts for the next four decades.

In 1980, momentum continued to favor the name Denali after the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act changed the park’s name to Denali National Park and Preserve. But the official name of the mountain remained Mount McKinley.

Name-change efforts led by Alaskan politicians continued to be thwarted by Congress until President Barack Obama and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell took action in 2015 to restore the name Denali to the mountain. Secretary Jewell cited a 1947 law that empowers the Secretary of Interior to use authority when the USBGN “does not act within a reasonable time” as a justification to make the change.

No fewer than nine Native groups, from time immemorial, have used unique names for the mountain. There are five Athabaskan languages surrounding the park, each with its own oral place name. According to University of Alaska linguist James Kari, the groups to the north and west of the mountain (and Alaska Range) use words that translate to “the tall one.” The Athabaskan languages to the south of the mountain use words that mean “mountain-big.” The name “Denali” stems from “deenaalee,” which is from the Koyukon language traditionally spoken on the north side.

The first non-Native record of the mountain came from George Vancouver in 1794, when he referred to the “stupendous snow mountains.” Early 18th and 19th century Russian explorers had several names for the mountain. In 1834, explorer Andrei Glazunov called the highest peak Tenada, which is Deg Hit’an Athabaskan and means “the great mountain.” This name appears on an 1839 map of the area. Another Russian name used to describe the mountain was Bulshaia Gora and means “Big One.”

The US purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867 and a couple of decades later, a gold prospector named

Frank Densmore explored Interior Alaska and effused about the tremendous mountain. Prospectors all along the Yukon River started calling the mountain “Densmore Mountain” or “Densmore Peak.”

“Mount McKinley” emerged after a gold prospector named William Dickey (who was an admirer of President-elect McKinley) used the name in an 1897 New York Sun article. Although the new president had no direct connection to Alaska, the name Mount McKinley was popularized following the president’s 1901 assassination.

As Mount McKinley became more established in American vernacular in the early 1900s, there were still many people with connections to Interior Alaska who were disturbed by the dismissal of Native antecedents. Browne and Sheldon were not the only proponents of “Denali.” Harry Karstens, the park's first superintendent, and Hudson Stuck, an influential Alaskan missionary, are on record supporting a Native name. The latter was baffled that the mountain’s Native name was being modified by outsiders and wrote about it extensively. Karstens and Stuck, along with Walter Harper and Robert Tatum, were the first party to summit the mountain in 1913.

In addition to the legislative record, the attitudes of Browne and Sheldon also were documented in their respective memoirs. It was clear that the name McKinley bothered both of them.

In a 1913 memoir, Browne lamented: “In looking backward over the history of the big mountain, it seems strange and unfortunate that the name of McKinley should have been attached to it.”

In 1930, Sheldon’s *The Wilderness of Denali* was published and the memoir closes by making another case for the mountain’s name:

“The Indians who have lived for countless generations in the presence of these colossal mountains have given them names that are both euphonious and appropriate . . . Can it be denied that the names they gave to the most imposing features of their country should be preserved? Can it be too late to make an exception to current geographic rules and restore these beautiful names—names so expressive of the mountains themselves, and so symbolic of the Indians who bestowed them?”

As we celebrate the Park Service’s 100th year in 2016, we see that it is not too late. After nearly 100 years, Sheldon’s pleas were finally answered with the restoration of the traditional great one, Denali.



Belmore Browne  
Library of Congress,  
Prints & Photographs Division,  
LC-USZ62-53120



# How to Make Reservations for Buses, Campsites

Advance reservations for all bus services and campsites for the 2016 season are available through mid-September. Each reservation for Visitor Transportation System (VTS) shuttle buses may include a maximum of eight seats. Make reservations online or by phone.

Phone lines are open from 7 am to 5 pm daily (Alaska time). Tickets may be purchased by phone up until the day before travel and picked up at the Wilderness Access Center (WAC).

Dial 800 622-7275 nationwide, or 907 272-7275 international, or visit [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)

### Tickets

Prepaid, reserved tickets may be picked up at the WAC. It is not necessary to check in at the WAC if you already have your shuttle tickets.

You need to be prepared to board at a loading deck on the west side of the WAC 15 minutes before your departure. Any unclaimed, prepaid tickets for buses departing before 7 am may be picked up from staff on the bus deck. Bus drivers do not sell tickets.

Campground permits and bus tickets may be picked up at either the Riley Creek Mercantile or the WAC.

### Entrance Fees

Entrance fees are \$10 per person age 16 years and older. Payment is included with your bus reservation. Otherwise, payment may be made at the Denali Visitor Center by credit card, cash, check, or money order.

### Refund Policy

For each shuttle bus seat or campground site there is a \$5 cancellation fee. Shuttle bus cancellations must be made at least 24 hours before departure time. Campground cancellations must be made by 11 am the day before arrival.

Tour bus cancellations must be made seven days prior to departure. No refund is granted within seven days. A \$5 change fee is levied for changes made to existing reservations.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

## Courtesy Key to Campground Experience

- Check in after 11 am. Check out by 11 am.
- Quiet hours are between 10 pm and 6 am. At Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika River campgrounds, generators may be operated only from 8 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 8 pm. No exceptions.
- Fires are allowed only in established grates at Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika River campgrounds. The use of power saws and cutting live vegetation or standing deadwood are prohibited. Campfires must not be left unattended.
- Pets must be leashed at all times. They are not allowed on most trails, on river bars, or in the backcountry. Dispose of feces in garbage cans. Secure pet food inside a vehicle or food locker.
- Store all food and ice chests in vehicles or in the food lockers provided.
- Store and cook food away from sleeping areas.
- Whenever they are not in use, all food, food containers, coolers, and cooking utensils must be stored in a closed, hard-sided vehicle or in a food-storage locker. This includes freeze-dried and canned food, as well as beverages and scented items, such as soap, toothpaste, and sunscreen.
- Keep a clean camp and wash dishes immediately.
- Do not cook directly on fire grates. Dispose of used foil.
- Never leave food, containers, or garbage unattended even for just a few minutes.
- Scrape unwanted food from pots and plates, and place in a secure trash container.
- Dispose of trash in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster, available at campgrounds. Be sure dumpster lids are closed and latched.
- Do not feed any animal, including birds.

	Season	Sites	Water	Facilities	Cost / Night
	Weather dependent				
<b>Riley Creek Campground</b> Mile 0.2, near park entrance	All year; limited facilities from Sep - May	145 sites for vehicles and tents	Yes (no water in winter)	Flush and vault toilets	<b>\$14</b> walk-in tent <b>\$22</b> or <b>\$28</b> vehicles to 30’ <b>\$28</b> RV to 40’
<b>Savage River Campground</b> Mile 12.8	May 19 - Sep 21	32 sites for vehicles and tents	Yes	Flush and vault toilets	<b>\$22</b> or <b>\$28</b> based on size and type of site
<b>Savage Group Sites</b> Mile 12.8	May 19 - Sep 21	3 sites, tents only	Yes	Vault toilet	<b>\$45</b>
<b>Sanctuary Campground</b> Mile 22.6	May 20 - Sep 15	7 sites, tents only no vehicles	No	Vault toilet	<b>\$12</b>
<b>Teklanika River Campground</b> Mile 29.1	May 20 - Sep 21	53 sites for vehicles and tents	Yes	Vault toilet	<b>\$22</b>
<b>Igloo Creek Campground</b> Mile 34.0	May 20 - Sep 15	7 sites, tents only no vehicles	No	Vault toilet	<b>\$12</b>
<b>Wonder Lake Campground</b> Mile 84.4 (to Park Road junction)	June 8 - Sep 15	28 sites, tents only no vehicles	Yes	Flush and vault toilets	<b>\$16*</b>

\*Price does not include a one-time, non-refundable campground reservation fee of \$6. Prices are subject to change. 50% discount available with Senior or Access passes only. Cancellations must be made by 11 am the day before arrival in order to receive a refund. Cancellation fee applies.

### Answers to crossword, page 12

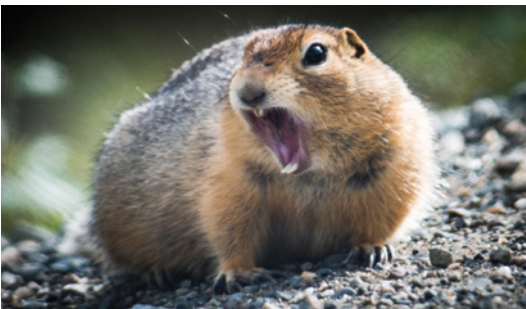


KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

**Never feed or approach wildlife**



To report a violation or crime, call the tip line at **800 478-2724**  
For emergencies, dial **911**




NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER



# Thanks For Riding the Bus

The bus that you ride in Denali is key to conserving the park's wilderness character for future generations. Each bus takes the place of dozens of personal vehicles, saves on fuel and emissions, and allows you to watch and enjoy scenery and wildlife more safely.

 The paved section of the Park Road from the entrance at the George Parks Highway to the Savage River

Check Station at Mile 14.7 is open to private vehicles during the regular season. The area is served by the **Savage River Shuttle**, a free courtesy shuttle with parking and departure points throughout the entrance area. It's especially well-suited for hiking and cycling logistics, and shoulder season outings. Plan on two hours round trip. See more details listed on Page 16. A map and descriptions of Savage area hiking trails appear on Page 8.

## Departure

Tour buses depart from area hotels and the Wilderness Access Center. Please check pickup location prior to the date of departure. All **Visitor Transportation System (VTS )** shuttle buses depart from the Wilderness Access Center only.

## Dates of Operation

Regular Season May 20 to Sep 15  
Shoulder Season May 13-19 and Sep 16  
Dates subject to change

## Car Seats

Alaska State Law requires children to be in a car seat or booster seat. Children younger than 1 year of age or less than 20 pounds (9 kg) must be in a rear-facing infant seat. Children 1-4 years and at least 20 pounds (9 kg) must be in a child restraint. Children 5-7 years who are less than 57 inches (1.4 m) tall or less than 65 pounds (30 kg) must be in a booster seat. Parents are responsible for providing the appropriate car seat.

The concessioner makes efforts to provide infant and toddler seats free of charge at the Wilderness Access Center, Baggage Claim, and other areas. Some buses are equipped with two built-in toddler seats.

## Accessibility


Wheelchair accessible buses are available on all bus systems. Please advise staff of your needs as you make reservations. American Sign Language interpretation is available with advanced request.

## Firearms

The park concessioner does not allow firearms on tour buses. Passengers may carry a firearm on shuttle buses but it must be unloaded and stored in a locked container. Check with the concessioner in advance for more information.



## Tours

 **Natural History Tour**  
This tour focuses on presenting the rich


cultural and natural history of Denali. Your driver/naturalist provides a great introduction to the landscape, geology, and history of the park as you travel 17 miles into the park. Morning and afternoon departures are available. A snack and water are provided.

**Length:** 4-1/2 to 5 hours

 **Windows into the Wilderness**  
This narrated tour to the

Teklanika River at Mile 30 provides a blend of history, science, and the opportunity to view wildlife and sweeping landscapes. At the Mountain Vista Trail (Mile 12), an interpreter and an educator introduce visitors to the cultural and scientific significance of Denali. The tour is an excellent choice for families because it includes demonstrations, activities, and a 3/4-mile walk. A snack and water are provided. Morning departures only.

**Length:** 5-1/2 to 6 hours

 **Tundra Wilderness Tour**  
A narrated tour traveling

53 miles into the park to the Toklat River Contact Station offers opportunities to view the park's wildlife and scenery. Tours depart in early morning and afternoon. A box lunch and water are provided.

**Length:** 7 to 8 hours


 **Kantishna Experience**  
This narrated tour

provides exceptional opportunities to view park wildlife and scenery while learning about early park history on this fully-narrated tour. Travels the full length of the Park Road to the historic mining district of Kantishna at Mile 92. A park ranger joins the tour to lead a short walk and tour in Kantishna. Lunch and water included. Morning departures only.

**Length:** 12 hours

More at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliBuses>

## Shuttles

 **Visitor Transportation System (VTS) Shuttle Buses**  
Shuttles are for transportation and wildlife viewing. Passengers may get off along the Park Road to hike and explore, then reboard later shuttle buses on a space available basis with a ticket for that day. Waits of up to one hour to reboard a shuttle bus are possible. See page 6 for a link to bus schedules posted online.

Bring plenty of food, water, and adequate warm clothing. No food is available for purchase beyond the entrance area. You may also want to bring field guides, binoculars, insect repellent, and head nets.

Fares are dependent on turn-around destination and do not include entrance fees. Youth discounts apply. Fares listed are for an adult age 16 and over. Youths age 15 and under are free.

All VTS buses have racks available for two bicycles. See page 10.



Visitors board tour and shuttle buses.

Destination	Highlights	Start	Time	Fare
<b>Toklat River</b> Mile 53.5, 85.4 km	Offers rest rooms, visitor information desk, bookstore. Highlights include braided river, views of Divide Mountain, wildflowers, Dall sheep, grizzlies, caribou.	May 20	6-1/2 hours round trip	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$26.50</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE
<b>Eielson Visitor Center</b> Mile 65.9, 106.1 km	Offers rest rooms, visitor information, art gallery, picnic tables. Highlights include views of Denali, tundra, trails, golden eagles, grizzlies, wolves, arctic ground squirrels.	June 1	8 hours round trip	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$34.00</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE
<b>Wonder Lake</b> Mile 84.4, 135.9 km (to Park Road junction)	Offers rest rooms and picnic tables. Highlights include views of Denali, kettle ponds, moose, beaver, waterfowl, blueberries.	June 8	11 hours round trip	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$46.75</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE
<b>Kantishna</b> Mile 92.4, 148.4 km	This area is primarily a destination for lodge visitors and backpackers for backcountry access. Please respect private lands.	June 8	12 hours round trip	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$51.00</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE
<b>Camper Bus and Backpackers Only</b>	Tent campers can access backcountry units or Sanctuary, Teklanika River, Igloo Creek, and Wonder Lake campgrounds by camper bus. Specify when making a camping reservation. Camper bus passes are good on any green bus with space available, for the entire time you are west of Mile 20.	June 1	Depends on destination	Adult, age 16 and older <b>\$34.00</b> Youth, age 15 and younger FREE

**Bus and campsite reservations** 800 622-7275 Nationwide 907 272-7275 International [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)



# Savage River Area Trails

## Online Guides and Videos

Entrance Area Trails

**Day Hike Resources** = <http://go.usa.gov/j2XJ>

**McKinley Station Trail**  
Online tour and video = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcx4>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcxk>

**Mount Healy Overlook Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcad>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcxP>

**Roadside Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaF>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcxG>

**Rock Creek Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcC3>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcxz>

**Savage River Loop Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcCT>

**Triple Lakes Trail**  
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaW>  
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaC>

To Park Entrance ►

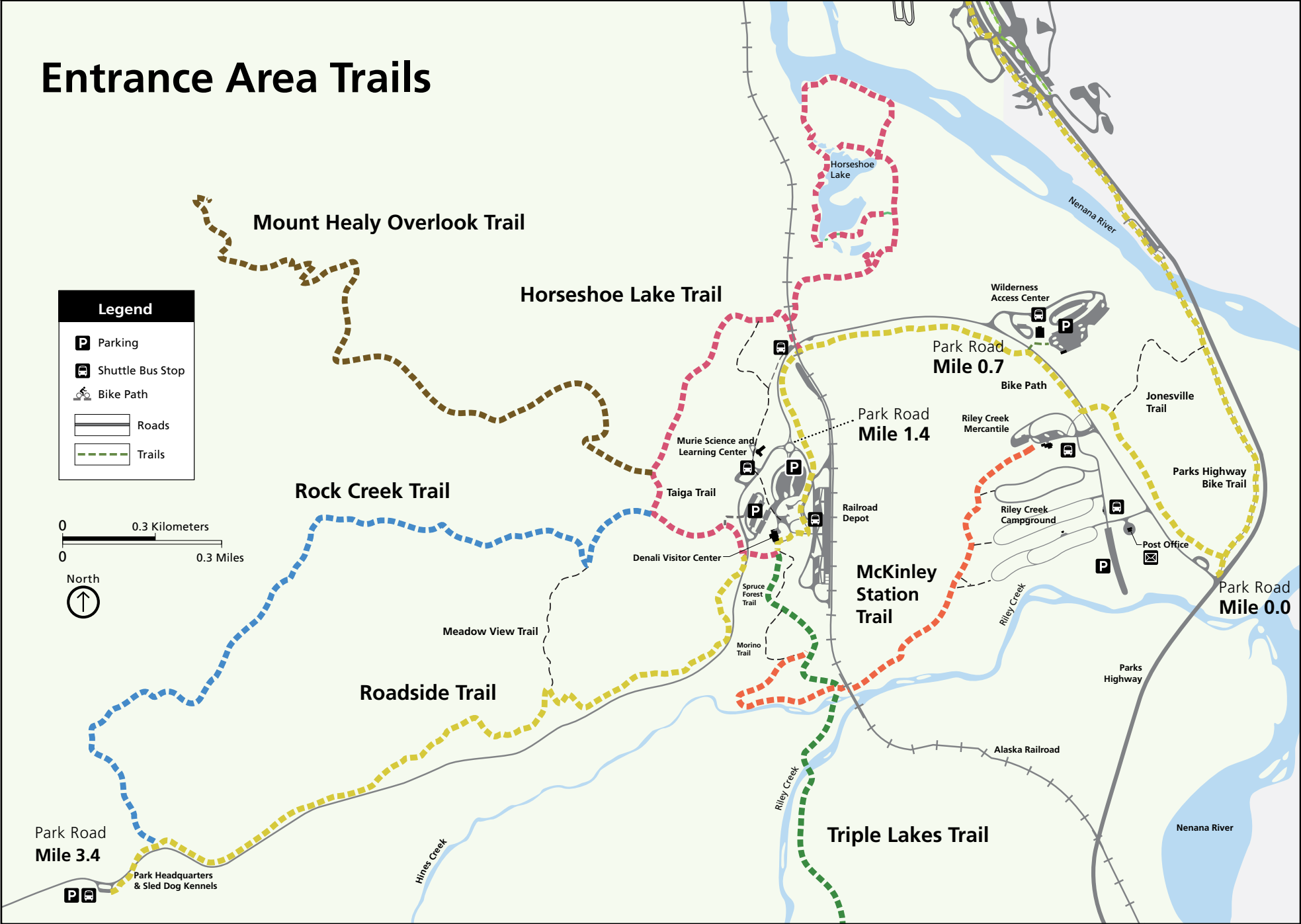
	Connections	Time	Distance	Elevation	Grade	Trail Width	Surface
Mountain Vista Trail	Located at Mountain Vista Rest Area, at Mile 12.8 of the Denali Park Road. Can be accessed by the free Savage River Shuttle and private vehicle, with ample parking available.	30-minute loop	0.6 miles 1.0 km	50 feet	5%	6 feet	Compacted gravel
Savage Alpine Trail	Connects Savage River, campground and Mountain Vista day use areas. Parking available at either end. Use free Savage River Shuttle to return to your vehicle. <b>Considered strenuous.</b>	Three hours one-way	4.0 miles 6.4 km	1,500 feet	25%	2 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks, gravel
Savage Cabin Trail	Limited parking available, consider Mountain Vista. Trail to Savage Cabin includes a series of waysides emphasizing local history. (Living history talks available only to concessioner tours.)	30-minute loop	0.8 miles 1.3 km	50 feet	5%	6 feet	Compacted gravel
Savage River Loop Trail	Located at the Savage River at Mile 14.74. Very limited parking available. Can be accessed by free Savage River Shuttle.	1.5-hour loop	2.0 miles 3.2 km	negligible	none	2 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks

## Trails Beyond the Entrance Area

	Connections	Time	Distance	Elevation	Grade	Trail Width	Surface
Tundra Loop Trail	From the Eielson Visitor Center, at Mile 65.9 of the Denali Park Road, this short loop explores alpine tundra plant community.	15-minute loop	0.3 miles 0.5 km	negligible	12%	5 feet	Compacted gravel
Thorofare Ridge Trail	From the Eielson Visitor Center, this switchback trail climbs to a ridge for high, scenic views of Denali and a vast expanse of tundra beyond.	One hour one-way	0.8 miles 1.3 km	1,000 feet	25%	5 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks
McKinley Bar Trail	From a road junction approaching Wonder Lake Campground, this trail passes through wet meadows and enters spruce forest, and ends at the McKinley River.	90 minutes one-way	2.4 miles 3.9 km	negligible	5 to 15%	2 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks, wood planks

\* Appropriate same-day use of these trails may be limited to campground occupants, or early-morning departures on VTS shuttles from the Wilderness Access Center.





	Connections	Time	Distance	Elevation	Grade	Trail Width	Surface
Horseshoe Lake Trail	From Taiga Trail or Bike Path (0.5 mile shorter) join Horseshoe Lake Trail at railroad tracks (limited parking available). From bus stop, loop is two miles.	Two hours round trip	3.2 miles 5.1 km	250 feet	5 to 20%	5 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks, portions compacted gravel with log checks
Taiga Trail	Provides access to Rock Creek, Mount Healy Overlook, and Roadside trails.	45 minutes one-way	0.9 miles 1.5 km	75 feet	5 to 15%	2 feet	Gravel with open ditches to step across
Murie Science and Learning Center Trail	Connects to the Murie Science and Learning Center, then leads toward Horseshoe Lake and the Taiga Trail Loop, with a spur trail to the Bike Trail.	20 minutes one-way	0.6 mile 1.0 km	80 feet	10%	4 feet	Compacted gravel
McKinley Station Trail	From the visitor center to Riley Creek Campground and Riley Creek Mercantile (offers access to the Triple Lakes Trail).	One hour one-way	1.6 miles 2.6 km	100 feet	8.5%	5 feet	Compacted gravel
Mount Healy Overlook Trail	Take Taiga Trail for 0.5 miles, then look for Mount Healy Overlook Trail junction. <b>Considered strenuous.</b>	Two hours one-way	2.7 miles 4.3 km	1,700 feet	25%	2 feet	Native soils with roots and rocks
Roadside Trail	From the visitor center via Taiga Trail to Park Headquarters and Sled Dog Kennels.	One hour one-way	1.8 miles 2.9 km	350 feet	15%	3 feet	Compacted gravel
Bike Path	From visitor center to Wilderness Access Center, campground, and Park Entrance. To access services in Nenana Canyon via <b>Parks Highway Bike Trail</b> , add 1.0 miles, 30 minutes.	45 minutes one-way	1.7 miles 2.7 km	150 feet	5%	10 feet	Compacted gravel
Jonesville Trail	From the Bike Path (near the Riley Creek Mercantile), connects to the Parks Highway Bike Trail and services in the Nenana Canyon.	10 minutes one-way	0.3 miles 0.6 km	75 feet	10%	4 feet	Compacted gravel
Parks Highway Bike Trail	A multi-use path that runs parallel to the George Parks Highway from the Park Entrance to the Nenana River Bridge and hotels, restaurants, shops and businesses in Nenana Canyon beyond.	30 minutes one-way	1.0 mile 1.6 km	50 feet	less than 5%	8 feet	Asphalt
Rock Creek Trail	From the visitor center via Taiga Trail to Park Headquarters and Sled Dog Kennels.	1.5 hours one-way	2.4 miles 3.8 km	400 feet	15%	2.5 feet	Compacted gravel
Meadow View Trail (Connection for loop)	A short connector trail between Rock Creek and Roadside trails forms a <b>1.6 mile/2.6 km loop</b> back to the visitor center.	1.5 hour loop	0.3 miles 0.5 km	none	Access trails up to 15%	2.5 feet	Compacted gravel
Triple Lakes Trail	Access via the McKinley Station Trail, or a pullout at the north side of the Nenana River Bridge approximately Mile 231.5 of the George Parks Highway.	Five hours one-way	9.5 miles 15.3 km	1,000 feet	20%	2 feet	Compacted gravel, soils, rocks, roots, wood planks, suspension bridge
Morino Trail	Take the McKinley Station Trail for 0.4 miles to a short spur trail to historic roadhouse and homestead sites. Turn left at main trail to loop back to visitor center.	15 minutes one-way	0.2 mile 0.3 km	none	none	5 feet	Compacted gravel
Spruce Forest Trail	For a short accessible loop, take the McKinley Station Trail and turn left at the first junction to return to the visitor center.	20-minute loop	0.15 miles 0.24 km	none	none	5 feet	Compacted gravel

Unless noted, all chart walking times and distances originate at a trailhead behind the Denali Visitor Center.



# Backcountry Trips

## Begin with a Free Permit, Safety Talk

Overnight stays in the backcountry require a free permit available at the **Backcountry Information Center (BIC)**. Located next to the Wilderness Access Center (WAC), the BIC is open 9 am to 6 pm daily. Please arrive no later than 5 pm to obtain a permit. Call 907 683-9590, or visit <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliBackcountry>

The permit includes these steps:

- Plan your itinerary
- Watch backcountry safety video
- Attend the ranger safety talk
- Mark your map
- Obtain a camper bus ticket at the WAC only after completing your backcountry orientation

Permits are issued only in person, no more than one day in advance. Permits are not required for day hikes, but some areas may be closed to entry. Hikers should stop at the BIC for a map and current information.

Denali’s vast backcountry is divided into units. Each has a daily quota for the number of people who may camp there. Because more popular units fill early, be flexible when planning your trip.

Most units require the use of bear-resistant food containers (BRFCs), loaned free of charge with a permit. All food, toiletries, and garbage must be stored in these containers. These containers are lightweight, cylindrical canisters designed to keep bears from obtaining human food and trash.

Since the introduction of BRFCs in 1984, there has been more than a 95 percent reduction in bears obtaining backpackers’ food and an 88 percent decrease in property damage. All food, including freeze-dried and canned foods and beverages, and scented items, such as soap and sunscreen, must be kept in the containers when not in use.

- Cook and store food at least 100 yards/ meters downwind from your tent in an area with good visibility in all directions.
- Keep an eye out for approaching bears.
- Be prepared to put food away in a hurry.
- Avoid cooking greasy or odorous foods.
- Do not sleep in the same clothes you wore while cooking.
- Keep a clean and tidy camp.
- Pack out all trash.



To plan return transportation after your hike, download a schedule of VTS shuttle stops along the entire Park Road @ <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliShuttle> Please verify effective dates on each page.

### Leave Denali As You Found It

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

## Cycling Offers Special Perspective of Park

- Cyclists may ride on roadways, parking areas, campground loops, and the designated Bike Path.
- Stay attuned to road surface, traffic, and weather conditions as you’re riding.
- Travel single file, keep to the right, and comply with traffic regulations.
- Bicycles can be transported free on the **Savage River Shuttle** and on all park shuttle buses. Space is limited to two bicycles per bus. Check availability or make reservations at the Wilderness Access Center or [www.reservedenali.com](http://www.reservedenali.com)
- Bike racks are provided at campgrounds, rest areas, and visitor centers. If you go day hiking along the Park Road, carry your bike 25 yards

- from the roadway and hide it from view. If you’re leaving it overnight, tag it with contact information.
- Wild animals are curious and opportunistic. Do not leave food or scented items on your bicycle unattended. Use a food storage locker provided at campgrounds and other locations, or use a bear-resistant food container provided free with a backcountry camping permit.
- If a bear or wolf appears near you or your planned route, do not try to outride it. Stop and dismount. Keep all your gear with you. Back away slowly. Wait for the animal to move away. If there is a vehicle nearby, use it as a barrier between you and the bear or wolf. Carry bear spray, and learn how to use and dispose of it safely.



NPS VIDEO

The park's new five-part, 40-minute video series *The Denali Backcountry* is required viewing for your free backcountry camping permit. But you're welcome to watch chapters to prepare for a day hike, too. Available online @ <http://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/bicvid.htm>

## Your Outdoor Adventure Gear Checklist

- **Essential Gear:** Bring a map, compass, waterproof matches or lighter, first-aid kit, knife, and a whistle. If you are going to be doing significant hiking in Alaska, consider carrying bear spray.
- **Clothing:** Take rain gear, a hat, and gloves. Dress in layers. Wool, fleece, or other non-absorbent synthetic clothing is preferable to cotton.
- **Insect Repellent and Head Net**
- **Footwear:** Wear sturdy, well-fitting hiking boots and take extra socks and gaiters to keep your feet dry.
- **Food:** Do not leave food or scented items unattended. Avoid carrying scented, spiced, or smoked items.
- **Water:** Giardia occurs in the park. Boil all water or use a filter. Refill with free, fresh water from filtered dispensers at six park locations (from east to west): Riley Creek Mercantile, Wilderness Access Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Morino Grill, Denali Visitor Center, and Eielson Visitor Center.
- **Sanitary Items:** Pack out all toilet paper, used pads, and tampons. Double wrap in plastic.
- **Tell a Buddy:** Tell someone where you are going and when you’ll be back.



# Trail Highlights

## What’s Burning?

The smoke that you may see or smell frequently originates from wildfires. Lightning ignites a highly flammable black spruce and fire quickly consumes the tree. Intense heat opens serotinous cones and disperses new seeds onto the forest floor, thus continuing a cycle that has gone on for time immemorial. Fire is a constant force of regeneration here.

## Park Mission Adapts In Most Challenging of Times

If you stop for a breather on log benches about a mile along the trail to Mount Healy Overlook, take note of a straight, downward swath of alder around you. You’re sitting in a ski slope in Mount McKinley Army Recreation Camp. From 1942 to 1945, as tourism ceased across Alaska during World War II, the McKinley Park Hotel and its ski slopes were used exclusively by U.S. Army soldiers. After a long tour in the Aleutians or remote Alaskan outposts, servicemen and War Department female employees were offered week-long rest and relaxation visits. When the train arrived at McKinley Station, guests were greeted by a hotel hostess riding a dogsled.

Amenities included a warming house serving hot coffee, sandwiches and candy, heated transport trucks, and a hundred sets of ski equipment available for free use. Two tow ropes served three different ski areas, including this 2,100-foot main slope up the south side of Mount Healy. In 1946, after the war ended, the hotel and ski slopes were opened to the public. But in 1953 the venture ended as winter operations of the hotel ceased.

## An Ancient Landscape Still Shaped By Ice

As you gain elevation, watch for U-shaped valleys carved by glaciers. They flow from south to north here and have deposited nearby several noteworthy “erratics” – large boulders that are found to originate from rock at significant distance. The immediate area was the northern edge of a vast ice sheet that covered much of the continent 11,000 years ago, the most recent of seven ice ages. It’s in an “interglacial” period just now, and researchers suggest with a high degree of certainty that it will be covered and shaped by ice again — eventually.

## How Many Different Types of Trees Can You Find in Denali?

Don’t work too hard. There are only eight. The list includes white spruce, black spruce, quaking aspen, balsam poplar, paper birch, Alaska birch, larch (or tamarack) and black cottonwood. This can be a challenging place to survive and thrive, even for trees. While there can be as much as 70 inches of snow, it still amounts to less than 12 inches of total precipitation each year. Winter temperatures routinely fall as low as 40 degrees below zero. Permafrost, or permanently frozen ground found throughout much of the park, impedes drainage and root systems. It can take 100 years for a black spruce to grow six feet. There are roughly 750 different plant species cataloged in the entire six-million-acre park. The same area in Costa Rica has roughly 9,000 different plants, making it more than 10 times as diverse. Low biodiversity is one reason why protected areas tend to be so very large in Alaska.

The tree line, a point beyond which trees can’t survive, can be another effective indicator of increasingly difficult living conditions. Tree line changes based on a combination of factors including soil type, wind, temperature, aspect and altitude. At the equator, it is upwards of 18,000 feet. Way up here, just 245 miles below the Arctic Circle, it’s as low as 2,700 feet. The Denali Visitor Center is about 1,700 feet. Once you’re beyond the tree line here, you’ve ventured officially into sub-arctic tundra. Scanning the landscape, watch for light-green colored patches of deciduous trees that are first to colonize an area after a fire or disturbance. In the entrance area, these colors are living remnants of a fire in 1924 that burned for six days across 30 square miles. By contrast, dark green trees are spruce stands that come to dominate forests because they can photosynthesize at lower temperatures.



NPS GRAPHIC / ANGEL SOLOMON

**Alagnak Wild River,** King Salmon  
**Alaska Public Lands Centers,** (four sites) Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Tok  
**Aleutian World War II National Historic Area,** Unalaska, Dutch Harbor  
**Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve,** King Salmon  
**Bering Land Bridge National Preserve,** Nome  
**Cape Krusenstern National Monument,** Kotzebue  
**Denali National Park and Preserve,** Denali Park

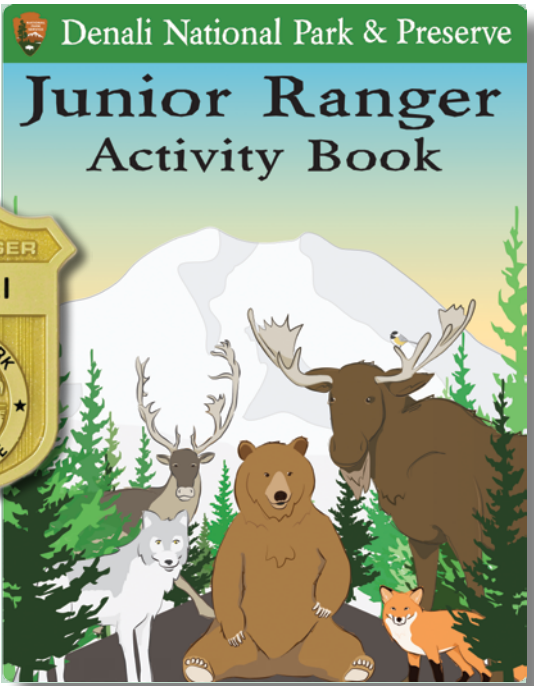
**Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve,** Bettles  
**Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve,** Gustavus  
**Iñupiat Heritage Center,** Barrow  
**Katmai National Park and Preserve,** King Salmon  
**Kenai Fjords National Park,** Seward  
**Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park,** Skagway, Seattle, WA  
**Kobuk Valley National Park,** Kotzebue

**Lake Clark National Park and Preserve,** Port Alsworth  
**Noatak National Preserve,** Kotzebue  
**Sitka National Historical Park,** Sitka  
**World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument,** Honolulu, HI, AK, CA  
**Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve,** Copper Center  
**Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve,** Eagle



NPS PHOTO / DANIEL LEIFHEIT

The **Denali Discovery Pack** program features durable backpacks families may check out at no cost during their visits. Inside there are eight lessons in an activity guide organized by tundra and taiga habitat. Visit the Denali Visitor Center to check out a backpack for your whole family.



If you complete a **Junior Ranger Activity Book** while you're here, show your work to a park ranger, take an oath, and receive a badge. Free copies are available from bus drivers and at seven park locations — Denali Visitor Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Savage Check Station, Wilderness Access Center, Toklat River Contact Station, Eielson Visitor Center, and the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station. Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliJunior>

# FIND YOUR PARK



Not-so  
v

# Become a Junior Ranger

To become an official Not-So Junior Ranger, complete all of the **Park Explorations** and **Alpenglow Activities** listed below.  
Show your work to a park ranger to receive a special sticker.

## Park Explorations

- ☐ Attend a Ranger Program
- ☐ Visit the Park Sled Dog Kennel
- ☐ Watch a park film
- ☐ Ride a bus into the park

## Alpenglow Activities

- ☐ Scavenger Hunt
- ☐ Denali Crossword Puzzle
- ☐ I Spy ...
- ☐ What Does Denali Mean to You?

## Scavenger Hunt

Find answers to these questions in exhibits at the **Denali Visitor Center** (DVC) and **Murie Science and Learning Center** (MSLC).  
To walk to the MSLC a short distance from the DVC, follow dinosaur tracks painted on the pavement.

### Denali Visitor Center

What famous act signed in 1980 tripled the size of the park and officially changed the name to Denali National Park and Preserve?

Name the only amphibian that lives in the park.  
Hint: it hibernates beneath snow during the winter.

Name one item Athabaskans used for daily tasks. What was it used for?  
What item would you use to perform that task today?

### Murie Science and Learning Center

What does the quilt depict?

Which dinosaur that used to live in Denali roamed in herds much the same way as caribou do today?

Why did Adolph Murie collect and dissect animal droppings while studying wolves in the park in the 1930s and '40s?

## Denali Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

- Snowshoe \_\_\_\_\_
- Adjust to new conditions
- Favorite food of the Dall sheep
- Female sheep
- Approximately two million acres of the park are protected as \_\_\_\_\_
- Changed color by soaking in a solution
- Also
- Move in a dreamy manner
- Regular tendency or practice
- Made a mistake
- One of these is not required to go fishing in Denali
- Helps during medical emergencies
- Mexican dish locally made using halibut
- A place where people establish a community.
- Harsh cry of a bird
- Recorded program shown again
- Device for sharpening straight razors
- Relax

### DOWN

- Mushing command for "left"
- Showing a keen interest
- Depend on
- Plant/animal native to a certain area
- Where a bear spends the winter
- Wonderment
- Annoy with frequent interruptions
- Tranquilize
- Aching feeling after hiking
- A bird that builds a home using twigs, mud, or leaves
- Idealistic person
- Offerings to the poor
- Divide into two parts
- Waxy, fleshy covering at the base of the upper beak in some birds
- Used to refer to something that is one's duty or responsibility
- Dark, thick, flammable liquid distilled from wood or coal
- A couple
- Type of explosive

Check answers page 6.



# What Does Denali Mean to You?

Draw or write about what Denali means to you. You can share a copy of your answer at a kiosk on the lower level of the Denali Visitor Center.



☐ **Magpie**  
blue, white, black corvid with a long tail  
NPS / KENT MILLER



☐ **Raven**  
large, black corvid; usually seen in pairs  
NPS / NATHAN KOSTEGIAN



☐ **Fireweed**  
tall stem with pink flowers in the summer, red leaves in the fall  
NPS / KENT MILLER



☐ **Caribou**  
member of the deer family with a white neck, rump, and feet  
NPS / KEN CONGER



☐ **Mew Gull**  
black wing tips, often seen nesting near the Savage River  
NPS / JACOB W FRANK



☐ **Denali**  
the north and south peaks can be seen from the Park Road  
NPS / JACOB W FRANK



☐ **Hikers**  
Denali is one of the few parks where you can hike on trailless terrain  
NPS / KENT MILLER



☐ **Ptarmigan**  
a small, chicken-like bird; changes color with the seasons  
NPS / CHARLOTTE BODAK



☐ **Lichen**  
a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and an algae; low-growing, many species  
NPS / JACOB W FRANK



☐ **Braided River**  
glacially fed, silty water, many channels  
NPS / KENT MILLER



☐ **Red Fox**  
coat color varies, but always has a white-tipped tail  
NPS / KENT MILLER



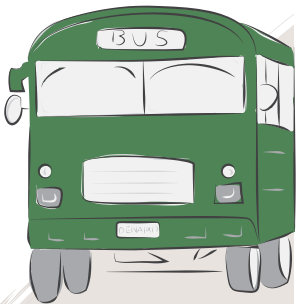
☐ **Glacial Erratic**  
boulder transported and left behind by a glacier  
NPS / CHARLOTTE BODAK



☐ **Grizzly Bear**  
prominent shoulder hump is muscle used for digging  
NPS / NEIL BLAKE



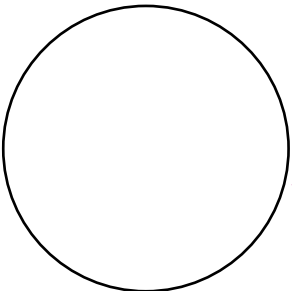
☐ **Arctic Ground Squirrel**  
seen in tundra areas; stands on its hind legs and flicks its tail  
NPS / JACOB W FRANK



## I Spy ...

How many of these items can you find during your trip into the park? Try for at least seven, but bonus points if you find them all.

*As an official Not-so Junior Ranger,  
I pledge to help protect the natural and cultural resources of  
Denali National Park and Preserve and other public lands for the enjoyment of all.*



Not-so Junior Ranger

Park Ranger

Park Date Stamp





## Denali and Wonder Lake

Oil painting, 16 x 22 inches

by **David Rosenthal**



NPS PHOTO / JAY ELHARD



NPS PHOTO / EMILY BROUWER

## One That Was Once Unnamed

Graphite, colored pencil, charcoal, mylar, and resin

36 x 36 inches

by **Brooks Salzwedel**

Learn more about the **Artist-in-Residence** program  
at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliArt>

## Ten Days in Denali

by **Yelizaveta Renfro**

Excerpt from an essay

“What do you do as the writer-in-residence?”

During my stay in Denali last July, I got this question a lot. Of course, the short answer is: write. But it isn’t that simple. I didn’t come to Denali and lock myself away in a cabin for ten days. The “writing” that I did was more a process of experiencing a place and taking a lot of notes. Much of the actual writing takes place later, after geographic and temporal distance gives me the space I need for reflection.

While I was in Denali, I was simply *there*.

I came to Denali with a notebook and some pens and a camera—no computer, no smartphone, no screen of any kind. Back home in Connecticut, I spend more time looking at a screen than I do looking at landscape, much to my detriment, so here I wanted to do the opposite. After ten days, I had many pages of hand-written notes and drawings and sketches, hundreds of photos on my camera.

I hiked across the tundra and across gravel bars and stood on ridges and walked the Park Road. I saw the mountain, and then I didn’t see the mountain for many days. I gorged on blueberries, tried crowberries, and even sampled a soapberry (which I don’t recommend). I went out in sunny weather and in rain and in fog. I found caribou fur and antlers and bear digs. I saw a rainbow over Divide Mountain, and I saw a herd of about seventy caribou streaking across the hillside.

I saw Dall sheep, moose, golden eagles, Arctic ground squirrels, marmots, snowshoe hares, a porcupine, magpies, ptarmigans, and bears. A lot of bears. Every day for nine days straight, I saw bears—most of them from the bus or car windows. When you see more bears than mosquitoes—that’s a good trip to Alaska.

When I was riding Mona’s camper bus from the park entrance with a group of adventurous campers who were going out to Wonder Lake, she said to them, “Most people who come to the park only look at the landscape. You’re going to be part of the landscape.” This is an idea to consider. The landscape is not just something to look at and photograph from a bus window or visitor center parking lot. The landscape is something to experience. Don’t merely take photos

with the landscape behind you as a backdrop to show your friends back home that you were here. Take a few pictures, sure, but then put your cameras and screens away. How can what you are seeing compare to anything on your screen? And how can you ever capture it adequately in an electronic device? Experience it unmediated. Capture it with your mind—that is the only device capable of holding it, of truly taking it in.

So walk into the landscape. Become a part of it. Strike out across the tundra—even if you just go a short distance. Experience the two-dimensional backdrop of landscape becoming three-dimensional space as you enter it.

On one of the Discovery Hikes I went on, Ranger Tina asked the hikers how they would describe walking on the tundra to someone who has never done it. The answers varied. Walking on tundra was compared to walking on marshmallows, on sponges, on foam, on snow, on velvet, on a Tempur-Pedic mattress, on a waterbed, on carpeted bowling balls, or walking like a drunk person. “It is indescribable,” one visitor said, and that is the truth. To say that it’s like anything is to diminish the experience. The reason we do these things—the reason we visit national parks and watch caribou and walk on tundra—is because these things are unlike anything we know. The fact that I cannot describe it—that words fail me—is all the more reason for you to walk on the tundra yourself. It is an experience unlike any other, an experience I cannot interpret for you.

A couple of days before my departure, I met a man named Lee who was originally from Texas but now lives in California. He worked for forty years at a desk, and then at the age of sixty he started hiking. He’s now in his seventies. He told me that the wilderness affects him so profoundly that sometimes he just sits down on a rock and cries.

That is how a place like Denali can affect us, if only we open our eyes and our minds and our hearts to the wilderness.



NPS PHOTO / EMILY BROUWER



NPS PHOTO / EMILY BROUWER

## Nocturne

by **Marianne Boruch**

for David

You Bach yourself or Schubert yourself,  
light outside in the cabin dark, 11 pm, Denali

at treeline, the grizzlies still awake  
finding berry unto berry, getting larger

for their trouble, enough to  
doze all winter. But it’s August! And you

Mozart yourself, our bed a concert hall  
of one, that wire in your ear to

in time out of time as the moon—is there really  
a moon this semi-night?—bestows itself

over mountain and tundra.  
Bestows! Old word

growing older that finds us later  
and late, dear listener

of worlds above river stream  
and gravel bar, caribou to hare to crow,

the dot and dash of sheep up there, some  
arctic squirrel curious, a miniature

time stop, little sentry of the Park Road  
reeling up, back--wind

and scent and wolf. This dream to  
keep hearing, hour unto hour

sleep, our simple shared  
ageless, about to.

FIND YOUR  
**PARK**



# Everyday Good Things To Do in Denali

During peak visitor season, the park and its partners offer guided hikes, talks, theater presentations, and sled dog demonstrations. During May or September, offerings are more limited.

Learn more about park ranger programs at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliRanger>

- DVC = Denali Visitor Center
- MSLC = Murie Science and Learning Center
- EVC = Eielson Visitor Center



NPS PHOTO / NATHAN KOSTEGIAN

- **8 am, DISCOVERY HIKE**, bus departs Wilderness Access Center. Advanced registration required at DVC within preceding two days — This off-trail, all-day hike with a park ranger to a different site every day is a great way to explore Denali. Offered June 8 to early September, hikes can vary in difficulty. Participants must be prepared for uneven terrain, small stream crossings, dense vegetation, unpredictable weather, and close encounters with wildlife. While the hike itself is free, participants are required to sign up in advance at the Denali Visitor Center and to purchase a \$35.00 Discovery Hike bus ticket. Group size is limited to 11 hikers. More at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliDiscovery>

- **RANGER'S CHOICE PROGRAMS**, Times Vary — Watch for posted fliers or inquire at the information desk for special topics and activities based at the Denali Visitor Center.
- **10 am, SLED DOG DEMONSTRATION** — Buses begin to load at 9:20 am at the DVC campus bus stop. Expect to return about 11 am.
- **10 am, GUIDED NATURE HIKE**, DVC — Join a ranger for a guided hike that lasts around two hours and covers about three miles round trip. This hike is considered moderate. Meet at the DVC front porch just before 10 am to participate.
- **12 pm, NOONTIME FILMS & PRESENTATIONS**, MSLC — Bring your lunch at noon to the Murie Science and Learning Center for film screenings and presentations by Alaska Geographic staff.
- **1 pm, HIKE TO THE KENNELS**, DVC — Join a ranger for a guided hike to the Park Kennels that lasts around 2.5 hours and covers up to 2.5 miles with about 500 feet of elevation gain. Meet at the Denali Visitor Center just before 1 pm to participate. The hike concludes at the Park Kennels by 3:30 pm, in time to meet the dogs and watch the 4 pm Sled Dog Demonstration. You can return to the DVC by way of free "Dog Demonstration" or "Riley Creek Loop" courtesy shuttles.
- **1 pm, EIELSON STROLL**, EVC — Join a ranger for a short naturalist walk of about 45 minutes around the Eielson Visitor Center. While no prior registration is required, please select a shuttle bus that departs by 8:30 am from the entrance area. The EVC is located at Mile 65.9 and is accessible by any Eielson, Wonder Lake, or Kantishna shuttle bus.



NPS PHOTO / NATHAN KOSTEGIAN



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

- **2 pm, SLED DOG DEMONSTRATION** — Buses begin to load at 1:20 pm at the DVC campus bus stop. Expect to return about 3 pm.
- **4 pm, SLED DOG DEMONSTRATION** — Buses begin to load at 3:20 pm at the DVC campus bus stop. Expect to return about 5 pm.
- **7 pm, EVENING SPEAKER SERIES**, MSLC — On most Tuesday and Friday evenings, Alaska Geographic hosts presentations by visiting specialists for in-depth explorations of science and humanities at the Murie Science and Learning Center.

## Evening Campground Programs

Check local campground bulletin boards for topics and schedules. Programs last 45 minutes.

- **7:30 pm, RILEY CREEK CAMPGROUND**  
Mile 0.2, parking available at Riley Creek Mercantile
- **7:30 pm, SAVAGE RIVER CAMPGROUND**  
Mile 12.8, accessible by courtesy bus or private vehicle
- **7:30 pm, TEKLANIKA RIVER CAMPGROUND**  
Mile 29.1, accessible only to campers at campground
- **7:30 pm, WONDER LAKE CAMPGROUND**  
Mile 84.4, accessible only to campers at campground



For the latest event updates, visit an online calendar @ <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliCalendar>

## Special Events

- **THIRD MONDAY MOVIES: PARK CONNECTIONS**  
Free screenings of films linking Denali to the National Park Service Centennial are offered at 7 pm Mondays, **May 16, June 20, July 18, Aug 15, and Sep 19** in the Karstens Theater of the Denali Visitor Center.
- **DENALI MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
This fifth-annual event, hosted in partnership with the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, takes place **Mon Jul 25** with activities based at the Denali Visitor Center and other local venues. Learn more @ <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliFestival>
- **FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION**  
Help the park celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service **Thu Aug 25** with a ribbon-cutting dedication of family-based picnicking and day-use amenities near Riley Creek Campground.
- **ROAD LOTTERY**  
This year's Road Lottery is **Fri Sep 16 to Tue Sep 20**, with Military Appreciation Day set for **Sat Sep 17**. For each day of the lottery, 400 names are drawn and those winners may drive the length of the Park Road in personal vehicles. Applications are accepted May 1-31 and winners are posted by June 15. Learn more at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliLottery>

## Park Kennels Experience is One-of-a-Kind

The historic **Park Kennels** are open to visitors year round, 8 am to 5 pm daily, near Park Headquarters at Mile 3.4 of the Park Road. Free courtesy shuttles are provided throughout the visitor season. Public parking in the area is limited. If you drive yourself, do not expect to find a parking spot.

- Be sure to check in with staff and read all safety information as you arrive.
- For the safety of your pets, please leave them at another safe location while you visit the sled dogs. This includes service animals.
- Keep children at your side at all times.
- If any dog acts excited (jumping, barking, pacing) or nervous, please visit a different dog.
- Help train the park dogs to have good manners. They should not jump on you, chew on fingers, or eat any human food.

Free demonstrations depict how rangers and dogs work together to practice a traditional Alaskan mode of travel. These truly unique, 30-minute programs include an opportunity to tour the kennels and visit Alaskan huskies.

Demonstrations are offered three times daily during peak season, at 10 am, 2 pm, and 4 pm. In May and September, offerings are more limited.

No registration necessary. Arrive at Denali Visitor Center bus stop 40 minutes prior to start time to board the "Dog Demonstration" courtesy bus. There are no late departures.

Programs are given rain or shine, so be prepared with an umbrella or rain coat. Some seating is available, and there is plenty of standing room.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

Learn more about sled dogs and the park kennels at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliDogs>





Wilderness Access Center.



Visitor Center Campus.



Eielson Visitor Center.



Murie Science and Learning Center.



Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station.

**Wilderness Access Center**

Mile 0.75 Park Road  
Open 5 am to 7 pm daily for rest rooms, coffee, bus depot. Reservation desk opens 7 am. Information 7 am to 7 pm. Hours may vary during shoulder seasons. Offers bus tickets and campground information, coffee cart, "Grab & Go" food, retail sales. Film: *Across Time and Tundra*. 907 683-9274 <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliWAC>

*All shuttle buses depart from the Wilderness Access Center.*

**Backcountry Information Center**

Mile 0.75 Park Road, adjacent to the Wilderness Access Center. Open 9 am to 6 pm daily. Offers backcountry information and permits, bear-resistant food containers, maps. 907 683-9590

**Riley Creek Mercantile**

Mile 0.4 Park Road. Full-service check-in for campgrounds, bus tickets, convenience groceries, firewood, showers, laundry, and dump station. Open 7 am to 11 pm daily, with reduced hours in May and September.

**Visitor Center Campus**

Mile 1.4 Park Road  
Offers bus stop, railroad depot, baggage check, Morino Grill, Alaska Geographic Bookstore, and Lost and Found at 907 683-9275

**Murie Science and Learning Center**

Mile 1.4 Park Road  
Open 9 am to 4:30 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, presentations, half-day classes, multi-day seminars, teacher trainings, and youth camps. More at [www.nps.gov/rlc/murie](http://www.nps.gov/rlc/murie) 907 683-6432

**Denali Visitor Center**

Mile 1.5 Park Road  
Open 8 am to 6 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, interpretive programs, ranger-guided walks, Artist-in-Residence installation. Film: *Heartbeats of Denali* <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliDVC>

**Toklat Rest Stop**

Mile 53 Park Road  
Open 9 am to 7 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, Alaska Geographic Bookstore.

**Eielson Visitor Center**

Mile 65.9 Park Road  
Open 9 am to 7 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, interpretive programs, ranger-guided walks, Artist-in-Residence installation. Film: *Climbing Mount McKinley* <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliEVC>

**Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station**

B Street in Talkeetna  
Open 8 am to 5:30 pm daily. Offers mountaineering information for the Alaska Range, general information, exhibits, Alaska Geographic Bookstore. 907 733-2231

NPS PHOTOS / KENT MILLER



Water sources are limited beyond the park entrance area. You can save money and reduce use of disposable plastic drink containers by refilling your bottle with free, fresh water from filtered dispensers at six park locations (from east to west): Riley Creek Mercantile, Wilderness Access Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Morino Grill, Denali Visitor Center, and Eielson Visitor Center.

# Ride Free and Green

There are three courtesy bus services available in the park’s entrance area. All are wheelchair accessible. All operate daily and are free. Use them to travel between entrance area facilities, and in conjunction with your plans to hike entrance area trails.

*Infographic not drawn to scale.*

*Please see pages 8-9 for a map of the entrance area with walking distances and descriptions of trails.*

The **Savage River Shuttle** travels a two-hour loop between the park entrance area, the Mountain Vista Trailhead, and the Savage River at Mile 14.74. Download a PDF of Savage River Shuttle schedules at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliCourtesy>

The order of stops for each loop is the Riley Creek Campground, Wilderness Access Center (WAC), Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, Denali Visitor Center (DVC), Park Headquarters, Mountain Vista Rest Area, Savage River Campground, Savage River Turnaround, Savage River Campground, Mountain Vista Trailhead, Park Headquarters, Denali Visitor Center.

The **Riley Creek Loop** travels the entrance area continuously, linking all major visitor facilities roughly every 30 minutes. Download a PDF of Riley Creek Loop schedules at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliCourtesy>

The order of stops is the Riley Creek Campground, Wilderness Access Center (WAC), Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC), Denali Visitor Center (DVC), Wilderness Access Center (WAC), Riley Creek Mercantile. On alternating loops, between stops at the MSLC and DVC, a stop is added at Park Headquarters.

The **Sled Dog Demonstration Shuttle** travels to the Park Kennels, which are located more than two miles from the visitor center campus. Free round trip transportation departs from the Denali Visitor Center bus depot 40 minutes before each demonstration. During peak season, this means 9:20 am, 1:20 pm, and 3:20 pm daily. Offerings are more limited in May and September, however. Check at the visitor center or the bus depot for posted departure times. Follow painted white paw prints on pathways a short distance from the visitor center to reach the bus stop. Learn more on page 15, or at <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliDogs>



Scan this code with a free app on your smartphone to link to trip-planning resources on the park website <http://go.usa.gov/WSct>



To report a violation or crime, call the tip line at **800 478-2724** For emergencies, dial **911**

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

## Stay Connected

- <http://twitter.com/DenaliNPS>
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- [www.instagram.com/DenaliNPS](http://www.instagram.com/DenaliNPS)
- <http://go.nps.gov/DenaliWebcams>



NPS PHOTO / JAY ELHARD

